

Message

From: Baxter, Madison [baxter.madison@epa.gov]
Sent: 5/4/2018 8:16:33 PM
To: Gray, David [gray.david@epa.gov]; Smith, Monica [smith.monica@epa.gov]; Crossland, Ronnie [Crossland.Ronnie@epa.gov]; Guidry, Randy [guidry.randy@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Advocate newspaper (La.) request/on deadline

David,

Here is an update, I also have a detailed timeline of events from LDEQ but they asked that it not be replicated in its entirety.

OSC Randy Guidry and a START contractor arrived on-site today to assess the clean-up of the fire water and ensure that the threat to waters of the United States is eliminated. The EPA team will remain onsite to offer assistance to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ), who is leading the response along with OMI Environmental Solutions hired by Flow Chem Technologies LLC. At this time, the response is aimed at removing the fire water and affected soil from the drainage ditches. The fire was extinguished around 2000 hours Thursday evening. As of now, there is no evidence to suggest that the fire water/foam has left the immediate area surrounding the facility thereby minimizing the threat to the environment. All evacuations and shelter-in-place for the area were lifted this morning and the air monitoring conducted by LDEQ revealed non-detects for volatile organic compounds and normal levels of oxygen in the area. As of this morning, a full assessment of the affected building has not been completed due to safety concerns. No injuries or deaths have been reported as a result of the explosion, fire, or smoke.

Madison Baxter

Federal On-Scene Coordinator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 6

469.805.4961
214.665.2288

From: Myers, Ben [mailto:bmyers@theadvocate.com]
Sent: Friday, May 04, 2018 12:46 PM
To: Gray, David <gray.david@epa.gov>
Subject: Advocate newspaper (La.) request/on deadline

Mr. Gray –

I understand from state authorities that EPA is the lead agency coordinating the response to the FlowChem fire in Rayne. Can you provide some specific information as to 1) what exactly is being done at the site, and what still needs to be done and 2) what has been learned so far, and what still needs to be learned?

Sincerely,
Ben Myers

Ben Myers

Reporter
The Advocate/Acadiana bureau
Desk: 337-534-4680
Cell: 847-308-4666
Email: bmyers@theadvocate.com
Twitter: @blevimyers